

**REMARKS**

**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,471,281 to Hayashi et al. ("Hayashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,308 to Lopresti et al. ("Lopresti").

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Lopresti, and further in view of Applicants' described prior art.

Claims 4, 13 and 14 are allowed.

Claims 9 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 12, and 15 have been cancelled.

Claims 9 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the claim amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate additional search of the art by the Examiner. All rejected claims having been cancelled; all remaining claims should be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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